

## **International IRO mission in Sumatra (Indonesia), 02. – 07.10.2009**



### **The IRO goes in the status of monitoring**

On 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 at 5:16pm local time an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 and the day after with a magnitude of 6.2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October shook the western province of Sumatra. The IRO was informed via the GDACS alarming system and the situation was monitored via the Virtual OSOCC, the IRO was therefore in the status of “monitoring”.

### **Indonesia requests international aid**

On 1st of October at 8:12am (CET) the government of Indonesia requested international USAR help.

### **The IRO plans first help offer**

Shortly thereafter the president of the IRO, Dr. Wolfgang Zörner, who was at that time at an INSARAG meeting in Budapest, was called via phone. It was agreed to ask our resources in Asia to clear their mission readiness for a possible mission before. Then also the European teams were included and alarmed.

Meanwhile it was announced from the INSARAG meeting in Budapest, that a USAR team from Hungary was to be deployed to Indonesia and that the IRO could participate, so a so-called Medium Team could be deployed. Furthermore, the offer of chartering a Boeing 757-200 was accepted by the IRO.

### **The IRO deploys rescue teams to Indonesia**

The departure was planned at Frankfurt on the 01.10.2009 in the late evening with a stop in Budapest. Within the IRO mission-ready rescue dog teams were alarmed and Budapest was set as the departure airport.

Meanwhile other teams have asked to fly as well and so the plane departed Budapest in the early morning hours with 12 tons of rescue equipment and medical supplies and the following teams: The IRO with 18 rescue dog teams, 3 group commanders and 1 team leader (Marco Brucan, Slovenia). 12 persons and 2 dogs from USAR Teams Hungary, 17 team members with 5 dogs of the organisation “RESCUE 24” from Hungary and ISAR Germany with 24 persons and 4 dogs. In addition, 2 mission leaders of the UNO (UNDAC-members) and W. Theuretsbacher, field-tested journalist of the Kurier, were on board.

### **IRO contingent lands in Padang**

After the landing in Padang (Sumatra) on the 03.10.2009, it was stated at the meeting of the UN-OSOCC that the IRO team could begin their first search on the 4<sup>th</sup> October at 06:00 in the morning. The IRO supported the Australian USAR Team (Queensland – Task Force 1) in a search area approximately 3 hours outside of Padang. Meanwhile the Japanese Team (RDTA) also arrived at the BoO and reinforced the IRO team, so that at that time 19 dogs were available for searching. Unfortunately no survivors could be found, so the search efforts were stopped by the LEMA (local emergency authority) on the 5.10.2009.

### **Return flight and greeting in Budapest**

The return flight departed Padang on the 06.10.2009 at 15.00h and on Wednesday, 07.10.2009 at 03:00 in the morning the airplane with the IRO contingent arrived safely, but tired in Budapest. The rescue dog handlers and their dogs were welcomed at the airport by the IRO president Dr. Zörner, together with Dr. Attila Tatar, INSARAG Chairman Europe, Africa and the Middle East.